THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above* 15,000 *copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 1307 *Chestnut street, Philadelphia, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN *is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.*

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, 68 *Wall street, New York, or No.* 1307 *Chestnut street, Philadelphia,*) *will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.*

FOR THE SOLDIERS.

BY A. E.

A CALL came up from the soldier's camps,
And sounded in our ears,
Above all the roar of the heavy guns,
And the ringing battle-cheers.
It said: "We are fighting for you, for yours,
In the forefront of danger we stand.
We are driving the ranks of the rebels back;
Will you lend us a helping hand?

"We give you all of our health and strength;
We are flinging our lives away;
Our days and nights, they are spent for you;
Will you give to us just one day?"
And the farmers afar, in the Prairie State,
Heard the call as it sounded by;
And they answered the voice from the far-off camps
With a cheerful, whole-souled "Aye!"

A little girl stood and watched the teams,
With their treasures running o'er,
With their loads of the full-eared, yellow corn,
Drive up to her father's door;
Till the rosy apples, and onions white,
And squashes, golden and round,
That the farmers brought of their hard-earned stores,
Lay heaped all over the ground.

And she said: "Oh, papa! I have nothing to give
That the soldiers would care to hold;
I am *so* sorry I am so small—
I have neither silver nor gold.
There is my doll, and my hoop, and all my toys,
But they don't want those, you see;
And they would not care for the games nor the books
Of a little girl like me.

"I think, papa, it is very hard;
I have thought all my playthings o'er,
And there isn't a thing they would want to take;
I wish I wasn't so poor.
I am sure there is nothing I would not give
To make their work some less—"
And here she stopped, for her little pet lamb
Was pulling at her dress.

They had played together—the child and lamb—
All the long, bright summer days;
It had shared her supper of bread and milk;
She had taught it its winsome ways.
It would run at the sound of its whispered name
To the mistress it loved so well,
As she loved it, her darling little pet,
Far better than I could tell.

She stopped, and looked in her father's face,
And her eyes grew large and wide;
Then she flung her arms round the lamb's soft neck,
And knelt down by its side.
And her eyes grew full of the blinding tears
That she could not wipe away;
And, "O papa! my darling lamb!"
Was all that she could say.

And closer and closer she held it then,
And faster the tears ran down,
Till she lifted her head and spake again,
Through the sobs that her words would drown:
"O papa! I never had thought of this;
It is all my own, you know.
O pet! you must go for our soldiers brave.
My darling! I love you so."

And, stronger growing: "Oh! yes, papa,
You must not look so grave.
Why, they give up their aims and lives for us;
It is everything I have!
It isn't much; I'm a *little* girl;
But perhaps, if you tell them so,
They will take it with all the bigger things.
O darling! I love you so."

I think the angels looked down from heaven,
With tears in their shining eyes,
At the tearful little upturned face,
And the noble sacrifice.
God love her, and bless her, and save the land
That claims her among its brave,
Who, 'mid their tears, with unfaltering hand,
Have given all they have!

AMBULANCES.*

[Continued from No. 21.]

An ambulance has recently been constructed by Dr. B. Howard, of New York, late of the United States Army, which seems to combine in an eminent degree the various advantages so much desired in vehicles of this description. (See diagrams in last No. of BULLETIN.)

1. *To enable the badly wounded to be easily loaded and unloaded*, two litters or beds are provided, made of wood, like an ordinary shutter, with sliding handles at each corner, as seen at figure A B C. Upon this the patient is easily shifted, and without any further disturbance. The litter is slid into the ambulance on rollers, *g*, figure F and H. In the same way the patient is removed on arrival at the hospital, and without being disturbed until he reaches his bed.

2. If part or all *the patients are able to sit up*, one, or both of the litters can be slid into a compartment provided for that purpose under the floor of the ambulance, as seen at figure H *n*, showing the interior with steel rollers in the floor of the compartment on which the litters slide. There are six permanent seats, each situated transversely, and each a corner seat with back and cushioned sides. This gives a comfortable purchase, secures the patients against much of the usual jolting, and prevents them being driven against each other in going over rough roads. The seats are let into the frame of the platform as seen at D *h*, F 8; the rollers being fixed about a quarter of an inch above them, so that the bed sliding on them do not chafe the cushions. The sides of the ambulance, as also both sides of the back of the driver's seat, and the inside of the upper section of the tail-board, are cushioned, while the middle seats have for a back a wide leather strap, like that used in stage-coaches; thus each seat is rendered very comfortable, and being transverse instead of longitudinal, is in every respect easier for the patient.

3. *In order to diminish the motion* of the body of the ambulance, and prevent rolling and pitching so intolerable in the ordinary ambulance, semi-elliptical springs have been substituted for the elliptical ones. These keep the body of the ambulance steady, and are very strong, while they have a limited elasticity.

4. *In order that the limited motion thus obtained be so modified as to give least jar to patients*, internal counterpoise springs are used, the delicacy of which may be modified to any extent desired.

The platform or frame on which the seats and beds rest, of which an internal view of one side is seen at D, and an external one at E, is as long but not so wide by about two inches, as the inside of the body of the ambulance.

Between the inside of the body and the frame of the platform, is an interspace, F *pp*, this is occupied by two lateral semi-elliptical steel springs on either side, fastened at the center of their arc to the inside of the body of the ambulance, as at F 10, the feet of which play upon iron plates on the outside of the frame E *a*. Opposite the center of the arc on the frame is fixed a block of soft rubber so that on the application of much force, it should be received by the rubber blocks which thus act as buffer.

The platform or frame on which the seats and beds rest, stands upon four iron stanchions, each of which rests on springs like the lateral springs described above, but much stronger, as seen at D. Figure D *c*, represents the iron stanchions resting on steel springs, the feet of which play upon

* The statement in last BULLETIN that members of Commission constructed the ambulance is an error. Dr. Howard is the inventor.

iron plates let into the floor of the ambulance at *c*. The spring is restrained in its motion upwards by an iron staple, and when by an unusual weight it is pressed down heavily, the force is received by a block of soft india-rubber enclosed within the staple. An impulse communicated to the floor of the ambulance, instead of being propagated to the beds or seats, causes a counteraction downwards of the spring at *d*, which, if the force be very great, spends itself upon the block of rubber, *d*. In this way, both laterally and perpendicularly, a constant poise is preserved, and what would otherwise be a very violent jar is reduced to little more than a vibration. The steadiness of the entire vehicle is preserved by the stout semi-elliptical spring beneath the body, and the delicacy regulated to any degree by the internal counterpoise springs within the body.

5. *That the water may be carried securely*, immobility of the vessel containing it during transportation is necessary. This is effected by substituting for the casks in ordinary use, a tank, G, which slides into a groved bed, and is secured by an ordinary fastening. The tank is made of wood, lined with zinc and bound with metal bands. It is readily accessible, the spigot protruding through the tail-board as in figure N and R 2, and is fully protected during loading and unloading by the upper section of the tail-board, which falls down over it.

6. *In a military point of view*, it possesses a great advantage in this, that beside the prescribed articles which may be carried in the driver's box, a large amount of medical supplies may be carried in the body of the ambulance, without interfering with the comfort of badly wounded patients.

There being but four stanchions, and these being close up to the side of the ambulance, the entire body beneath the platform is free for transportation of supplies. It is during the first few days after great battles, and on almost every occasion after cavalry engagements, that from the necessary absence of the supply wagons, the wounded are most likely to suffer. By packing hospital and other supplies, and thus occupying the available space in a certain number of these ambulances in each division and train, the proper care of the sick and wounded would not be impeded by the absence of the trains, everything necessary being always on hand sufficient to last for several days of active operations.

7. Although at first sight this ambulance might appear somewhat complicated, there is nothing about it which is liable to get out of repair. No spiral spring or anything of a fragile nature is introduced. One of the best guarrantees of this may be the fact that in the construction of the first ambulance of this kind, and the one which was most fully tested, nothing except the blocks of rubber was used which was not found in old ambulances or otherwise on hand at the repair shops of the Army of the Potomac, in the field.

8. The various parts are so simple that any one of them being broken could be at once repaired in any ambulance camp or battery in the field. The internal springs which are more subject than any other part perhaps, to accident, consists simply of single leaves of the ordinary ambulance spring, and could be introduced or exchanged in a few minutes. Like the common ambulance, it is drawn by two horses.

There is an arrangement for suspension of fractures of the lower extremity, which is very grateful to the patients. Two parallel iron bars are attached to the roof of the ambulance longitudinally over each bed, between which runs a roller with a dependent hook. The fractured limb being placed in a double inclined plane, or other splint, a bandage is passed through terrestra of the box splint, and then carried over the hook from which the limb is suspended.

In this way, instead of the jolting and jarring so commonly experienced, simple oscillation is substituted, or if desired, guys of bandage may be so extended to the up-

rights of the ambulance as to render the limb nearly motionless during transportation.

An iron looped rack and clasp K and L, are also fixed to each side of the ambulance in which stretchers of any size may be firmly carried without motion or loss during transportation.

We are indebted to Dr. Howard for the description of the plates, and have given it in his own language.

Ambulance Train.—There is a regimental ambulance train, a brigade, and corps train, with a chief over each. The rank of chief for corps is that of captain, for each of the others of first and second lieutenant respectively. They are all under charge of Medical Director.

Six stretcher bearers go with each regiment of not less than five hundred men, and two men with each ambulance.

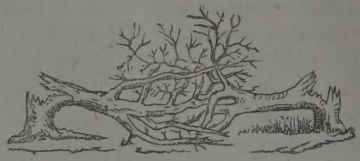
It is the duty of the stretcher bearers to take the wounded from the field, and carry them to the ambulances, by which they are taken to the field hospitals, and as these become filled, to remove those patients who may be able to bear transportation to base or post hospitals, which are usually several miles distant.

DEFINITIONS.

People are often puzzled about the meaning of certain military terms, an understanding of which would afford them an intelligent appreciation of our military operations, and to meet this defect, we propose to give in the BULLETIN a series of explanations of a few technical terms used in the army, which we gather chiefly from the Military Dictionary of Col. H. L. Scott, Inspector General, United States Army.

Abatis.—(French,) are rows of felled trees, deprived of their smaller branches, the remainder being sharpened to a point, and employed for blocking up roads, defending houses, or isolated posts, as well as more formidable intrenchments or fortifications. When a road passes through a forest, the trees may be cut down on either side, and allowed to fall across it, so that their disengagement is rendered very difficult, and the road rendered impassable, as is seen in

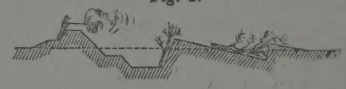
Fig. 1.



In fig. 2, which represents an intrenchment, they are usually fixed in an upright position at the outer boundary of the ditch, (*countersarp*), so that they are consealed from an advancing enemy.

They are also placed at the foot of the slope, (glacis) in front of the works, the plane of which is broken so as to conceal the abatis from the view of the enemy, and to guard against obstructing the fire from the parapet, where the figure of a man stands with his musket.

Fig. 2.



Alarm Post.—Is the place appointed for every regiment or detachment to assemble in case of sudden alarm.

Approaches are the first, second and third parallels, trenches, saps, mines, &c., by which the besiegers approach a fortified place.

Apron.—A piece of sheet lead, used to cover the vent of a cannon.

Arm.—Infantry, artillery and cavalry are *arms* of the service.

Armorer.—The person who makes, cleans or repairs arms.

Artillery.—The word is more ancient than the use of gunpowder, and was applied to machines of war in very early times. "And Jonathan gave his *artillery* unto his lads, and said unto him, go carry them to the city." Javelins, spears, and arrows were the artillery of those days.

AUXILIARY RELIEF CORPS.

IT ORIGINATED

in the need of "personal service" by earnest men among sick and wounded soldiers. Up to the date of its organization, May 1, 1864, the Sanitary Commission had confined its work in the field mainly to the distribution of supplies upon the requisition of surgeons. In some instances, it had established temporary feeding stations after battles, but had never attempted organized systematic personal work in hospitals or among wounded on the field.

This the Auxiliary Relief Corps was designed to do, and has done.

WHEN?

Arriving at Belle Plain, with forty men, in season to meet the first wounded from the battle of the Wilderness, leaving a detachment there, the balance pushed on to Fredericksburg, where twenty thousand wounded arrived in twenty days. The Corps was increased largely by volunteers, and consisted, at times, of one hundred to one hundred and fifty men; devoted, earnest, self-sacrificing, saving, as we believe, many lives, and helping to restore order in that bloody chaos. Going on to Port Royal, White House and City Point, at all of which places, with four hundred different agents, at least seventy-five thousand patients have been served, between May 1, 1864, and January 1, 1865. The agents have represented all shades of religious opinion, and have been drawn from the various walks and occupations of life, and have consisted of Rev. Doctors, Professors, Surgeons, Divinity, Medical and Law Students, Merchants, Clerks, etc., etc.

The Corps now numbers thirty-five men, stationed in the 2d, 5th, 6th, 9th, 25th, Cavalry, and Post Hospitals, and Feeding Stations, at City Point and Point of Rocks.

WHY?

1. To ensure faithful, prompt and discreet distribution of supplies *by* the right men *to* the right men.

2. It makes the soldier feel he has a friend by his side, to hear his requests, grant them if in his power, be at once nurse, adviser, friend and brother.

3. Because we claim that, in this war, every soldier is our brother—more akin to us, for the time, than the son of our own mother. The one is ours by accident of birth; the other has earned his relationship by his noble service. He has fought for us, perilled for us limb and life, that we and ours may enjoy, in peace, both life and limb; that our Union may be unbroken—our nation intact.

4. Because we believe that such soldier brother is entitled from the people, the government and from us, to all of *home comforts*. We, as the representatives of the people, are called upon to strive for this. We shall fail to arrive at this high standard, it is incompatible with field service, but we have always this "high mark," to work up to, and ought never to be content while we fall below it.

5. Every one of these men should be presumed to be patriots. True, some have enlisted for bounties, some are ignorant and vile, but we must not inquire into the moral status of each man. We cannot stop for that. It would not be safe if we could. "Judge not," &c. 'Tis enough that we know here is a suffering man, whether white or black, in blue, grey or butternut, he needs our help.

6. Shall we do less for him than for the sick or wounded stranger found by the roadside at home?—fallen there perhaps, by his own imprudence, degraded, brutal even, but still a man. Do we not open our doors, public or private, and give him bed, fire, clothing, food, and personal comforts, and personal attention? Shall we do less for him who has fallen in the field in the noblest service?

Our premises granted, the claim allowed, the work has been done—

HOW?

What is the process?—As at present organized, this auxiliary work is confined generally to the Base or "Depot Field Hospitals," as they are called.

Arriving at City Point, for instance, with the army, as soon as hospitals are located, a relief station is established in each corps hospital, with five to ten agents, under charge of one of them as captain. They occupy, say three hospital tents, one each for store-room, sleeping-room and clothing. In addition to these are reading and writing-rooms for soldiers when opportunity offers.

To these stations supplies are brought daily from the Sanitary Commission Supply Depot or Barge, upon the requisition of the captain, who makes draft for supplies, according to the number of patients and their

peculiar necessities. These requisitions are revised by the Superintendent of the agents who has a general supervision of the whole corps, assigning men to duty, transferring or relieving them, and conducting the correspondence with the other departments. A certain number of tents or wards are assigned to each agent, whose duty it is to visit them several times each day, according to the patient's needs, and to become acquainted with inmates, nurses, ward-masters and surgeons. These relations established, he ascertains the wants of each patient, and *distributes to them personally the stores of the Commission*, always, of course, subject to the direction of the surgeon; as no man or organization ought, in a hospital, to be independent of the medical authorities. Non-attention to this has caused much mischief, and created much of the prejudice heretofore existing towards civilians in the army hospitals.

The list appended to this, of articles distributed in November, by the corps will show the class of needs which are met.

It can be readily seen that such relations can be established between agent and patient, by his daily visits, at the bedside, as will enable him to learn precisely what is wanted, and how best to meet that want.

This list of course, does not include the distribution of supplies to the division and regimental hospitals at the front, or to the men in the trenches.

It should also be noted that the issues in November were smaller than during any previous month, since the campaign commenced. During the summer months they were at least double that amount.

PERSONAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICE.

The personal service in addition to the distribution of supplies, consists of reading to, writing for, and conversing with the the patient, giving a cheerful air to the tent, relieving him of the tedium of sickness, and by many little attentions, giving him a taste of home comforts, by the brothers sympathy manifested.

This service is more acceptable from the fact that it is *voluntary;* for although the soldier nurse may be kind and attentive, the patient knows that he is assigned to that duty, that it is compulsory, while the corps agent is presumed to be there from no other motive than to relieve the suffering body and raise the drooping spirits. This distinction is fruitful of profitable reflections, valuable at home and in society, as well as in the army and in the hospital.

In additien to these duties, are the answers to be made to daily inquiries from the homes of the patients as to their condition, their last hours and burial places, arranging for embalming and forwarding bodies and their effects, and innumerable "little duties," apparently trifling in themselves, but productive of much comfort and consolation to patient and relations.

EMERGENCIES.

Besides this regular hospital service, the agents are called upon to feed wounded in trains, as they are brought in from the field, and to go at a moment's warning to a temporary field hospital, after battles, to supply immediate needs. A permanent Feeding station is maintained near the Hospital landing at City Point, to supply occasional needs of patients passing to the transports, and to be prepared for emergencies likely to arise in case of a repetition of the scenes of last summer.

THE SPECIAL DIET KITCHENS

in these base hospitals are furnished, by the relief stations, with many needed articles which Government does not supply; for instance, tomatoes, canned mutton and beef, canned fruits, dried fruit, lemons, crackers, jellies, chocolate, flavoring extracts, spices and certain cooking utensils, and oftentimes, when the Government supply temporarily fails, with milk, apples, white sugar, tea, pickles, corn starch, farina, &c., &c.

SHOULDERS TO THE WHEEL.

In a word, the Sanitary Commission believes that too much cannot be done for the sick and wounded soldier. It believes that the best personal service is due to him, and to illustrate that belief, the Auxiliary Relief Corps is at work.

The writer "knows whereof he doth affirm" when he commends the "Auxiliary Corps," a part of which he has been. He knows it ought to be appreciated and sustained, and he knows it will be, if the people appreciate and sustain the Sanitary Commission.

No man properly appreciates his duty who does nothing for his country in this crisis. Shoulders were not made alone to bear a knapsack or a gun. They must be *put to the wheel.* Every man should, either by his personal presence, or his pocket and

his prayers, push on this work. The neglect to do it will be a cold record to read years hence. And let him remember, that if he has a friend or a brother in the army, he may yet need and receive friendly and brotherly care from the agents of the Commission. F. B. F.

NEW YEAR, 1865.

A VISITOR'S THOUGHTS.

What does the Sanitary Commission give to the soldiers? Shirts, drawers, socks? Yes, and much more. Preserved fruits, cordials and delicacies? Yes, but more than these.

Let me tell our friends of the North, that having just returned from a southern tour, and having had ample facilities of judging as to which of your many gifts was really the greatest blessing to the soldier, I am fully prepared to say, that the noblest service done by the Commission for the army is the bestowal of GOOD MEN as Relief Agents. I do not belong to the Relief Corps myself, therefore I feel no delicacy in speaking my mind. Down in the hospitals a man has no fictitious value, as men often have in our social system in the North. Down there, a man is seen at his true value, and the accidental accessories of dress are of no account. Keeping these facts in view, I wish our northern friends to know that there are many God-sent men among our agents—men to whom "the world is as dross"—men who are spending their lives and their private means in doing acts of mercy to "the boys."

You are doubtless in the habit of reading in the BULLETIN the "reports" sent in by these men, but I assure you that these reports give but a poor idea of the many nameless deeds of mercy done by our agents daily; and they are not the men to blazon their charities in print. In fact they don't *think* they are doing anything at all, but seem to count themselves "unprofitable servants." Good Mr. B., at Point of Rocks, told me one day with reference to his work among the sufferers, that he had got "callous," and yet during my visit to that station I learned some things regarding his self-sacrificing devotion to the soldiers, that might well put to the blush many of the more flaunting and showy charities that are current in the world.

I could particularize many instances of large-hearted goodness that came under my notice down South. But I must not—it would be a desecration. These men ask no praise, and what I have said is forced from me by the barest justice. W. H. H.

The Army and the Commission.

LETTER FROM GENERAL SPRAGUE.

POCOTALIGO, S. C., *January* 19, 1865.

DR. M. M. MARSH,
Inspector U. S. Sanitary Commission, Beaufort, S. C.

DEAR SIR:—Your note of this morning is received, and the *generous* supply of sanitary stores you so kindly furnished to this command. We are surprised that you are able to supply us so bountifully. The good things shall be faithfully distributed among the troops.

God bless the Sanitary Commission and the noble-hearted people who sustain it.

Yours, truly,
J. W. SPRAGUE,
Brigadier General.

LETTER FROM A CHAPLAIN.

HEAD QUARTERS, 1ST CONN. ARTILLERY, BROADWAY LANDING, NEAR CITY POINT, VA. *January* 7, 1865.

DR. W. F. SWALM,
Agent Sanitary Commission, City Point.

MY DEAR SIR.—It is with pleasure that I make this acknowledgment of the benefit which our Regimental Hospital has recieved from the stores of the Sanitary Commission.

From the 18th May to the 5th December, 1864, at which time I made out these statistics, we had 526 patients, of these 29 had died, 46 had been sent to the General Hospital and 414 had been returned to duty. The aggregate number of days of all spent in hospital was, to that date, 10,207, giving an average of 19·4 days for each patient. It is fair to estimate, that had the men been sent to the General Hospitals, they could not have found their way back under twice that time. The numbers and efficiency of the Regiment have been correspondingly promoted.

The stores of farina, corn starch and canned milk obtained from the Sanitary Commission have made up the deficiencies of the supplies drawn from Government. And the other liberal supplies of tomatoes, beef-stock, crackers, vegetables, lemons, pickles, shirts, drawers, socks, not to speak of many minor matters, have, in my opinion, greatly conduced to the comfort and quicker recovery of the patients. I am able to testify, on the authority of the hospital cook, that his department has never been so well

supplied with an abundant variety, as it has during this campaign.

Thanking you Dr. Swalm, and the gentlemen connected with you at City Point, in the trying and delicate duties of the Sanitary Commission, for the unvarying courtesy with which I have been met and the readiness with which my requisitions have been filled, I have the honor to be

Very faithfully yours,
S. FERMOR JARVIS,
Chaplain, 1st. Conn. Artillery.

The People and the Commission.

One of the grand results of the present war has been the development of the people in the direction of unity and fraternization. Union, not based on a dogma, but on the *idea* of nationality—Fraternity, not founded on a tradition, but on the *fact* of a common brotherhood.

The element in community that distracts the people from the idea of nationality, is that which has its source in local pride and jealousy. States have risen against the Nation from which they came and by which they were sustained.

The element in social society that diverts the people from the fact of a common brotherhood, is that which makes *caste* the judge of merit. Man has risen against his brother because circumstances have favored him with power and place.

The strife of these opposing principles, is the strife of right against might. The people are in it, to the full. It not only affects us in our political and social relations, but in our religious interests. Intolerance and bigotry, under whatever form, and by whatever name, are traitors against the common instincts of the race, as well as against the purest developments of the human mind: traitors as real, as are the political leaders of the National rebellion.

Our hospitals are crowded with men of all shades of religious belief. The Calvinist is there; the Arminian is there; the Hebrew and Romanist are there; men of no creed are there; men of deep thought and conviction, but with judgments in religious questions unformed, are there, as well as the thoughtless, heedless and profane.

What is the duty of the people towards these thousands of sick and helpless ones? They are our brothers, afflicted and needing care; not physical comfort only, such as watching and nursing can give, but such mental, moral and christian aid as the real heart and soul of the people can bestow, under the inspiration of their highest duty.

Has any individual a right, or any class or combination of individuals a right to assume the dictatorship in the matter of religious instruction? Has the Romanist a right to enforce his rosary or confession? Has the Hebrew a right to insist upon the observance of his peculiar faith? Has the Arminian a right to declare his message of free grace, or the Calvinist to claim that all are predestined to a doom that cannot be averted or avoided? The common sense and democratic sense of the people join, in the reply, that what is the right of one, is the right of all, and what is the right of all is equally the right of each; that in this matter of religious teaching, no class of people has any exclusive privilege, and that the Government has not recognized and cannot recognize any form of faith to be taught in the Army, to the exclusion of other forms.

The Jew and Romanist, the Universalist and Calvinist, the Unitarian and Arminian are each equally under the protection of the law, and each has the moral support of Government alike in the respective administration of their religious creeds among the soldiers of our army and navy.

One thing the people seem to forget in their zeal—it is this—that, though the soldier becomes virtually a machine physically, acting under orders all the time, drawing his very food and clothing by requisitions from the Goverment—going nor coming, sleeping nor waking, without leave—that he is still a responsible moral agent in the sight of his Maker. And though his movements are under the guidance of law, his instincts, thoughts, aspirations and

inspirations belong to himself and his Maker alone. They forget too, that in the employment of these inner faculties, he is an independent being, that he has a right to draw from sources around him, such aliment as he prefers for the supply of his moral appetite. The iron rule of military order cannot check a single aspiration of his unseen nature, but in spite of all else beside, he will be a morally responsible being.

In dealing with him, we must ever bear this in mind, remembering that he is like ourselves, and that we are like him in this attribute of moral responsibility.

This great principle is fully recognized by the U. S. Sanitary Commission. While its work is eminently and *essentially* a Christian work, and the prevailing sentiment of its members, as well as the ruling influence of its deliberations is what is technically called orthodox or evangelical, there underlies it all, the great, broad, catholic idea of the brotherhood and equality of the race; while there rests over and above and around it, the bright cloud of mercy from on High, so that no state lines shall limit its action, or no denominational caste chill its benevolence.

It antagonizes no smaller or rival associations, but rather rejoices to witness the idea of unity and fraternity leavening to some extent all of them. Separate state agencies have nearly run their day, because this is a war for the union of states, and the war is fulfilling its mission. Other associations having also a narrower platform originally, find themselves, either dwindling into *dwarfage*, or under the elevating inspiration of the times, and of the spirit of the times, creating broader foundations, that are more enduring than traditional dogmas.

A GENEROUS GIFT.

A most pleasing donation was received by the New England Women's Auxiliary Association last week, from the boys in the Massachusetts School Ship. These boys who are inmates of a reform institution, had saved some spars which were drifting off in a storm; and the owners of the spars had presented them with fifteen dollars as salvage. This sum the boys, by a unanimous vote, presented to the Association. Considering the limited means of the givers, this is one of the most generous gifts which the Commission has recently received, and it is valuable as showing how universal is the sympathy felt for our good cause.

JANUARY 24, 1865.

NECESSITY FOR THE CONTINUANCE OF THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION.

Extracts from Report of L. V. BEEBE, *concerning provision for sick U. S. Soldiers, exchanged prisoners, while in transit from Charleston, S. C., to Annapolis, Md., on Steam Transport, Northern Light, December,* 1864.

The next morning *after* we were placed on different vessels at Fortress Monroe, I learned that Col. Mulford had been instructed by Gen. Butler not to receive any agents of either Commission. Of course as we were already in the fleet with our supplies and ourselves, the order came too late, and we were allowed to accompany the expedition. But suppose we had not been allowed to go? How would have fared those poor, starved, sick men, who are firstly entitled, not only to sympathy, but to every attention the Government can bestow upon them. For the Steamship "Northern Light" nothing but the army ration was provided, except fifty pounds of split peas, fifty pounds of rice, and a small quantity of corn starch and farina. (This was the Hospital Boat.)

The army ration, hard tack, bacon, ham and coffee for sick men! For men, most of whom could not masticate such food, and none of whom had stomachs fit to receive it. To give it to them, though they craved it, would have been *poison* to nine-tenths. Indeed I have no hesitation in saying that I believe men did die on that ship because they did have small bits of meat. As for the other few articles enumerated above, how far would such a limited quantity go among so many men, particularly, when we had, from two hundred to six hundred on board, from the seventh to the seventeenth, ten days.

Nothing but army rations were provided for the officers, (many of them right from the hospitals), and they would have had nothing else, if I had not supplied their table with tomatoes, pickles, onions and soft

crackers. I had also supplied them with some articles of clothing, handkerchiefs, towels, &c. The beans, only half a barrel, saved from the rations provided for the Rebels, were all we had. I asked Dr. Fry, Surgeon in Charge on the "New York," for more, but could not get them, and before we arrived at Annapolis we were dependent on the ship for lanterns, as I had asked for candles, but could not get them.

Of the provisions supplied by government, nothing could be used except the coffee, the rice and the peas (fifty pounds only of each) and the small quantity of corn starch, all not being enough to supply these men two days. Hard tack could only be used in soup. Of all provided, there was nothing which could be used, of which there was enough, except the coffee. But suppose there were sufficient quantities of the other articles, are these the only requirements in addition to medical stores, for a hospital boat? The Sanitary Commission was a Godsend to these men, and but for it, the mortality which was fearful, would have been terrible. They lived on the Commission, and without, many could not have survived.

Col. Mulford and Dr. Fry invariably treated me civilly, even cordially, and I am indebted to them for the kindness to the Commission, through me.

But there are many things about the fitting out of the expedition and the manner of loading ships for the return, that seem to me quite wrong. The expedition was not properly provided with supplies, *if* it was not *expected*, that the Sanitary Commission would accompany it. * * *

Extracts from Report of Dr. George A. Blake, *concerning assistance to exchanged prisoners of war, U. S. Soldiers, en route from Galveston, Texas to New Orleans, Dec.*, 1864.

In my letter of the 16th inst. I promised a longer letter by the mail and a history of my trip to Galveston. When our Agent of Exchange effected an exchange at the mouth of Red River, an account of which you have had from Mr. Stearns, an exchange was agreed upon, by which all the prisoners confined in Camp Grace, Texas, were to be delivered in Galveston Bay, Dec. 10; at that time the number was little over five hundred. Camp Grace is two miles from the village of Hampstead, near Houston. Many of the prisoners confined there were sent from Camp Ford at Tyler, for more secure keeping, as many had endeavored to escape from Tyler and were re-captured. Camp Grace is situated in a very unhealthy location and many of our men died, so that we received only 342. We left here on Steamer "Clinton" on the evening of Dec. 8, and arrived at the blockading fleet off Galveston, Commodore Emmons, commanding, on the 10th, at 1 o'clock, P. M. * * *

Our prisoners were in a pitiable condition, many had no shirts, no drawers and bare feet, none had a decent blanket, and their general appearance indicated a great scarcity of soap and water in the Confederacy, as well as facilities for clothing adequate to the changing temperature. The men were all pinched up with the cold, and were an exhibition of extreme poverty. To the bare-footed, I gave socks and slippers, to the *shiftless*, wool shirts, and tobacco and milk punch to all. At night it was cold, the men were *stowed* between decks, a place arranged for transportation of horses, and a large demand was made for blankets.

Before leaving the city, I learned that nothing had been provided for the men except army rations and transportation By request of Agent of Exchange for this Department, I took with me 350 blankets which I was able to distribute to the men, giving each a blanket. Here was a place and a time, when and where the comforts of the Commission were specially required and appreciated. Suppose I had had no blankets —no shirts—no socks? they certainly could not be made aboard ship in mid ocean, they could not be had at any price. I can assure you it gave me no little pleasure to distribute blankets on that cold, inclement night. If the patrons of the Commission could have seen how much comfort was afforded those suffering heroes that night, two mites would be contributed where one was given before. One man died on the trip and was buried at sea with military honors. No chaplain being present, by request of Col. Dwight, our Commissioner of Exchange, I read the burial service. Many others had not lived to reach their homes, were it not for the timely gifts of the Commission. After our arrival in the city, the men were quartered in Camp of Distribution, where I served to them fresh vegetables, and provided each man with a plate, a tin cup, knife and fork, and a spoon, not furnished by the Quartermaster. * * *

LETTER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

NEW ORLEANS, *January* 10, 1865.

MR. ROBERT T. THORNE,
Ass't Sec., U. S. Sanitary Commission, Louisville.

DEAR SIR:—Since my letter to you of the 28th ult., the sanitary stores consigned to me for benefit of Union Prisoners of War at Cahawba, have all come to hand, excepting two boxes of tea; the same omission was noted on invoice I received from Mr. Shipman at Cairo.

I had opportunity through the courtesy of Col. Dwight, our Agent of Exchange, to accompany those stores to Mobile Bay, where I met Major Correll, referred to in the correspondence you forwarded to me. He was very willing to receive the stores, but had no transportation for them to the city. The steamer I was on ("St. Mary") received 603 rebel prisoners at Ship Island, being the remnant of the garrison of Fort Gaines, captured August 8, 1864, to be delivered to rebel authorities in exchange for those we received from Camp Grace, Texas, via Galveston, a few weeks previous. Judging from appearances, the rebel quartermaster's department must be at low ebb, as the prisoners were received in two flat-boats and eleven yawls, towed by a small steamer, apparently built to run in a *heavy dew*. Major Correll was very gentlemanly and was perfectly willing to receive the stores and forward them to Cahawba. To receive the stores at that time was entirely impracticable; if our steamer would wait until next day, he would come out and receive them; that was impossible, as the steamer could not be delayed, and we turned homeward. I intended to leave the stores at Fort Morgan, in charge of Lieut. Col. Clarke, 6th Mich. Art., but the wind was blowing a gale, which prevented our landing at that point. The stores are now safely deposited in my store-room. Negotiations are in progress, whereby both parties, Union and Rebel may amply provide for the wants of all prisoners. Two weeks since 1200 suits of clothing were sent to Cahawba, Ala., per arrangement negotiated by Gen. Washburne and Capt. Henderson, C. S. A., at Memphis in November last. A portion of the contract made by these two parties was annulled by the officer in command at Mobile, and the Union officer who was to go to Cahawba, Ala., by the terms of the contract, with Capt. Henderson, was stopped, and not allowed to proceed beyond the obstructions in the Bay. Our officers in the Navy say the boxes of clothing forwarded from this department, were allowed to remain on the wharf unguarded and unprotected from the rain, for eight days, before they were sent forward to their destination.

I regret exceedingly the failure of my attempt to forward the stores consigned to me. I am assured, however, by Col. Dwight, our Agent of Exchange, that every possible facility will be afforded to forward these stores hereafter.

The two half chests tea were missing. I contributed one half chest from my own stores. I shall avail myself of every opportunity to forward the stores, that they may reach our men in captivity at Cahawba, unless otherwise ordered by you. I hope Dr. Newberry will be able to send me another lot of vegetables, as my store-room is empty, and the demand constant. About fifteen thousand troops arrived from Memphis last week, they rendezvous at Kennerd, about fifteen miles distant, on the Jackson Railroad; Gen. Steele in command; their destination is problematical.

Regretting I can give no better account of my stewardship,

I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant;
GEORGE A. BLAKE.

LETTER FROM SAVANNAH.

HOSPITAL, 15th A. C.
SAVANNAH, GA., *January* 17, 1865.

DR. J. FOSTER JENKINS,

DEAR SIR:—On arriving at Hilton Head after a pleasant voyage, we were informed that the Agent of the Sanitary Commission from Savannah had gone to Beaufort for supplies, consequently not thinking it necessary to stop, we took steamer the same evening for Savannah and arrived here on the morning of the last day of the departing year. We learned that Mr. Hoblit, the Sanitary Agent with Sherman's Army, had gone to Beaufort.

Anxious inquiries were daily made by Surgeons, other officers and patients for sanitary goods. The men coming from their six weeks campaign, with no changes of garments, were in a sad condition, and deprived of the luxuries that had strewn their path through Georgia, and on short allowance of hard bread and pork, they longed for the help your Society would joyfully have given.

Mrs. P. was ready to fly to Beaufort for

them, but waited, believing that Mr. H. would soon arrive with them.*

At length a vessel with 400 packages of sanitary goods was announced by the Medical Director, as being at Thunderbolt Bay, four miles off. Still we could not answer the earnest question, "When will those treasures be here?" or meet the wants of our emaciated patients, fearing some would die for want of suitable nourishment. We could get some poor oysters in the shell, and had a few cakes of chocolate. With these Mrs. Porter comforted many. One noble dying soldier said the first day of our arrival, with eyes swimming with tears, "Oh, it does me so much good to see a lady here!" In two days he died, sustained by a joyful, Christian hope. His last words, as he threw his arms around his kind nurse were, "John, I love you." There was a great rush to Mr. Hoblit's rooms, when at length his goods were opened, and every hospital and every patient was made a joyful participant of those luxuries and absolute necessaries. Never were sanitary stores *so fully appreciated;* though happily we had not the wounded from the sanguinary field, as the conquest of Savannah had been almost bloodless. While the prisoners taken here in their Rebel hospital, were lying on soft mattresses and in clean sheets and bed garments, ours were lying on floors, in their war-worn field garments, and the contrast was painful. Many of those prisoners were not over fifteen, and had been conscripted, who said, "If we can get home we will never take arms against the United States Government again." They testified that our authorities were feeding them well on substantial food, though some, as our own soldiers, longed for some of the Sanitary delicacies.

Our good friend, Mr. Hoblit, informs us that with General Sherman's approbation, a ship is appropriated to bring stores from your Commission, and that he is daily looking for a load from* Beaufort. I trust we shall not be disappointed.

Mrs. P. is working for the present under great disadvantages, cooking farina, corn starch, &c., and making tea over a wood fire of green pine and using emptied cans for cooking utensils, as we are too tender-hearted to take from these Rebel dwellings stoves and all needed kitchen furniture; while our northern friends are generously shipping food for these same Rebels. Forgive us this wrong. It is difficult under such circumstances, to be angry and sin not.

The Surgeon-in-charge of this hospital has sent to Beaufort for medical stores, a cooking stove and kitchen furniture; if it comes we shall be greatly comforted.

Thanking you in behalf of our gallant Army, for all you have been able to do for it and for us personally,

I am truly yours,

JEREMIAH PORTER,
Chap. 15 A. C. Hospital, Savannah, Geo.

* This delay was caused by the difficulty in securing transportation.

AN AXE TO GRIND.

A man who continually and loudly boasts of his piety or his orthodoxy, generally has an axe to grind. A man who in entering upon a business already successfully carried on by some one else aspires to become a rival of that some one, and who in an orthodox community constantly seeks to make the impression that said some one is an "infidel," very apparently wants that orthodox community to grind his axe.

The allegation has been, and is being made in many localities that the Sanitary Commission is an "infidel concern," and orthodox pastors and people are warned against supporting it there-because. Upon investigation it appears that friends of the Christian Commission, and, in some cases, agents of that organization have started this scandal. Of course we cannot suppose that the Christian Commission have authorized or could authorize such a procedure; first, because those gentlemen know that the Sanitary Commission is not an "infidel concern," and know that its work of feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, and comforting the prisoner, is a work of genuine christian mercy; second, because they know that the circulation of such a report is unchristian; and third, because it is very bad policy. Our remarks are not intended for them; but they are intended for individuals who, either wholly ignorant of the matter of which they affirm, or, affirming against knowledge, so far depart from the precepts of Christ, and all the usages of honorable men, as to resort to the bad expedient of starting rumors which can only injure one good and christian cause, without ultimating in the permanent advantage of that which they uphold.

The Sanitary Commission has always extended cordiality and sympathy to the Christian Commission in its proper work,

and has furnished its agents with supplies upon many a battle-field. It is not the purpose of these remarks to express any diminution of that sympathy. Neither is it their purpose to allow designing men to go scot free, who, wearing the garb of the Christian Commission as a guise, seek to aggrandize their own sectarianism by slandering the greatest relief association known to the military history of any nation, and one whose very deeds constitute the impossibility of its being "infidel," or opposed to His teachings who said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

TO SURGEONS.

A Comprehensive Medical Dictionary, containing the Pronunciation, Etymology and Signification of the terms made use of in Medicine and the kindred Sciences, etc., etc. By J. THOMAS, M.D. J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1864, pp. 700.

A pretty thorough examination of this work has satisfied us that it will fulfil the expectations which its title justifies. It emphatically deserves the name of Comprehensive, for though of moderate size, it is full and complete, not only in regard to strictly medical words, but includes those occurring in collateral sciences. To the botanical student in particular, it must prove most acceptable, giving both the definition pronunciation (the latter to be found in no other book,) of all the most important botanical terms, and laying down clearly the principles which should guide us in writing and speaking.

These are explained in an Appendix, pp. 677 to 680, which also contains a valuable table of Materica Medica, a very complete table of doses evidently prepared with the greatest care; also full and explicit directions for writing Latin prescriptions, besides an admirable chapter, giving the explanations of Latin terms and phrases occurring in Anatomy, Pharmacy, &c. This is one of the most important features of the work, and must prove invaluable to those whose misfortune it is to be wholly unacquainted with Latin and Greek, and to those also whose knowledge of these tongues is imperfect, either from defective instruction or from having become rusty by disuse.

In short, we can recommend this work as one of the best, if not the very best of Medical Dictionaries, in the important feature of pronunciation without a rival, and from its comprehensiveness, the fullness, clearness and conciseness of its explanations, and its general adaptation to the needs of the Physician, Medical Student and Pharmaceutist, calculated to be of great utility to all who avail themselves of it.

FROM ANNAPOLIS.

Incidents taken from the Report of J. B. ABBOTT, *Washington, D. C., showing how the Sanitary Commission treats the friends of Soldiers.*

1. H * * * A. B * * *, Co. E, 1st R. I. Light Art, discharged by special order, by reason of being a minor, at the request of his father, the boy having enlisted without his cosent. No pay or allowance were given him, he was without money, was referred to the Commission for means to get home to North Scituate, R. I. Gave him a ticket to Providence, R. I.

2. Mrs. L * * * R * * * came from New York to Washington to look up her husband; has not heard from him since the battle of Gettysburg; no records can be found concerning him since then; the supposition is that he is dead. Mr. Forbes has ventured to make out her application for his pay, bounty and pension. She has been stopping at the Home for the Friendless for the last two months; desires to return to her friends in New York, but has not the means to get there. Gave her a ticket.

3. W * * * K * * *, a soldier's father. He came to Washington to look for his son, upon whom he is dependant, and from whom he has received no tidings for a long time. He was a member of the 51st N. Y. Vols. His father could find no record of him; has arranged with Mr. Bowne to ascertain, if possible, whether he is living or dead. He has no means to return home, resides at Fraimingham, Mass.; is very old and feeble, and much broken down with age, being 77 years old. Gave him a ticket to Boston. He was exceedingly grateful to the Commission for the kind considerations he had received.

Camp Parole Hospital, Jan. 20, 1865, *by* MISSES A. CARY AND S. L. PHILLIPS.

A pleasant and most welcome variety is at length presented in our daily rounds, by the very unusual number of *vacant beds;* the occupants having, in a majority of cases, left for the distant homes, that have so long mourned their absence, and many others

having become so far convalescent, as to anticipate a speedy reunion with the far-off loved ones, while yet another class, happily few in numbers, have been borne to the soldier's grave. Sabbath morning dawned on the lifeless forms of two new victims. One young man had died very suddenly in *camp*. Another had lingered many days, while the anxious mother having been summoned, watches sadly and wearily, the sure approach of the dread *messenger*, who has accomplished his mission, and in sorrow, she returns with the precious relics to that bereaved home to which she had fondly hoped to bring again *with joy*, the cherished son and brother.

On Monday morning comes again, from two other wards, the too familiar message, that another, and yet another has slept his last long sleep. One of these had been brought in a few days since in a state of wild delirium. During a brief lucid interval, the thoughts revert to the dear ones at home and the anxious desire is expressed that some one will *write* to apprize them of his critical state, for he fears he cannot recover. To the question, whether living or dying, all will not be *well*, with an averted face and difficult articulation, he murmurs something of the *six little ones* who will become orphaned. Soon, reason is again dethroned, and before another mail a postscript must be added to announce to another stricken household, that the husband and father can return to them no more. A few others still remain, on whom death seems to have set his mark, yet among the *convalescents* are those who have been raised from the very brink of *the dark river*. Such an one who struggled for days apparently, with the king of terrors, seems rapidly recovering, and recent letters from a devoted wife and loving daughter, show how valuable to them is the life thus graciously spared.

January 27, 1865.

Through the instrumentality of skillful physicians and faithful nurses, attended by the blessing of God, a large number of the returned *prisoners*, that recently crowded our wards, have so far recovered as to have left for their respective homes; some few still remain in a critical condition, while some of the *ward masters* and nurses, have been prostrated by violent attacks of fever. One of these has just expired, after a few days' illness. One only, of the other inmates has, during the week past, yielded up his life—a victim to disease contracted in prison, and he has left precious evidence that his afflictions resulting in the death of the body, have brought life and immortal glory to the *ransomed soul*. Many of the convalescents have recently received intelligence from home, the *first* in many months. To some, these welcome missives have brought tidings of health and prosperity from those anxiously awaiting their return; while others have learned that during the weary months of absence, their homes have been invaded by disease and death, and the father, mother, sisters or beloved children, have been removed; never more to greet them with *a welcome home*. One affectionate son is informed that his father, to whom a letter had been addressed since his release, had departed this life more than a year since. Letters received from the friends of deceased soldiers often give a sad interest and variety to our work. A few extracts from one just received, may serve as a specimen: "Your welcome and precious letter, my dear Miss P., was received a few days ago, and should have been answered immediately, but I was taken suddenly ill, and at this moment can scarcely guide my pen, but feel that I can wait no longer to express my unbounded gratitude to you for the interest you took in my darling H. I thank God, that after months of untold suffering, he should at last have fallen into kind hands, where kind words reached his dying ear. You took my place by his dying cot. May the Saviour ever be near to support and comfort you and others who have cared for our dear son. Could you know the comfort your dear letter affords me, as I read it over and over again, you would feel repaid. The assurance that he had, as you trust, given his heart to God has been the only consolation that has calmed my aching heart. I did not expect when my boys entered the army, that they would return to me unharmed, but I little dreamed that one of them would be *starved to death*. I saw him in his soldier's coffin before he was exchanged to another, and oh! what a change since he left me full of life and health, saying: 'If I die mother, it will be glory, glory to die for my country.'"

From Camp Parole, Jannary 28, 1865, *by* GEO. A. MILLER.

I herewith most respectfully present my report for the week ending this day.

The weather has been extremely cold,

and we are importuned many times every day for *woollen under-clothes* and blankets. It is hard to refuse the poor fellows, yet I have felt it my duty to do so, in a large majority of cases. They are men lately returned from furlough, right from home and friends, and ought not to come destitute. They went from here well clad, having a change of under-clothing, over-coat, blanket, &c. Many of them left these things at home, thinking to draw from the Commission all necessary articles. When convinced that such is the case, I find it difficult to hear the voice of *duty* say "give."

Thursday evening an effort was made to revive the "Military Temperance Society of Camp Parole." About thirty signed the pledge. I would that not only all *soldiers*, but all the *officers*, both in Camp Parole and in the army everywhere would both *sign* and KEEP a temperance pledge.

The "Soldier's Friend" is received, with many thanks, and is *valued highly*, as it well may be.

I have the honor to forward to you the report from the hospital, which, as usual, is full of interest.

Letter from Annapolis, January 28, 1865, *by* E. C. GUILD.

I have the honor to submit herewith my report for the week ending this day.

On Sunday, the 22d inst., I had the pleasure of preaching, by invitation of Chaplain J. P. Hammond, in the Chapel of St. John's College Hospital. Service is conducted here after the manner of the Episcopal Church, and the beautiful psalms and prayers of the Liturgy never seemed to me more full of strength and comfort.

During the early part of the week, I was chiefly occupied with letters of inquiry, but found the search almost fruitless. Many men have been sent away during the week from both hospitals, discharged, on furlough, sent to the front, or transferred to Northern hospitals. A large number of the sick going North were delayed by the ice between Annapolis and Baltimore, and the surgeon in charge of the transport, tells me he was greatly helped by the supplies of stimulants with which we had furnished him. The number of paroled prisoners in the hospitals being so small, I have refrained during the latter part of the week, from making any inquiries, in the hope that a few days would bring us the first instalment of a new exchange, from whom I might have a better chance of getting news. But our hopes in this respect have been again and again disappointed. A few more escaped men, not more than twelve or fifteen, have arrived, that is all. On Thursday, 26th inst., owing to the quantity of ice in the river, a hospital boat from City Point put in here, and the men, about 300 in number, were admitted into the Naval School Hospital. Some very sick ones were among the number, but most of them were chronic cases, on their way to Northern Hospitals, and will probably remain here but a short time. Another most welcome accession was received at the Naval School Hospital, 150 men of the Invalid Corps, as nurses and hospital attendants. Permanent assistants of this sort have been greatly needed, and it is hoped that the want is now well supplied.

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, in consequence of the blocking up of the approaches to Washington and Baltimore by the ice, the boats from Norfolk and City Point, bringing passengers to these places were obliged to send them here. Large numbers of soldiers discharged, or going home on furlough, were therefore poured in upon us, and the means of transportation by rail from this place being limited, many were delayed for hours, and some compelled to pass the night here. Having no facilities for issuing food to such large numbers, and no sufficient supplies, we were obliged to content ourselves with doing what we could, we distributed several barrels of crackers which were gratefully received. A good many applications for clothing also, we were able to fill, but the draft upon our stores has nearly exhausted them. Where any were obliged to remain for the night we were permitted to refer them to Captain Davis, the commanding officer of College Green Barracks, a most faithful officer, and a generous and noble-hearted man. Though unable to draw rations for so large a number of stragglers and unexpected applicants, he gave them what he had. We furnished him with a barrel of crackers, and a barrel of dried apples, which he tells me proved acceptable to the men, and they found comfortable lodgings there. At the office we have been able to assist the men in many little ways hardly deserving mention, yet greatly contributing to their comfort; giving them information about their transportation, and opportunity to sign their papers, supplying them with writing materials, &c. In this way we have tried so far as our oppor-

tunities allowed, to meet their unexpected call, and diminish the discomforts of those who have been delayed here in so unusual a manner.

Report from MRS. HOPE SAYRES, *Matron of Home, Annapolis, Jan.* 28, 1865.

I herewith respectfully submit the following as my report for the week ending January 28, 1865.

Meals furnished, 283; lodgings, 70. The "Home" has been unusually free of company this past week, as most of the soldiers have had furloughs, and have gone home. I presume our "Home" will soon be filled to its utmost, as three hundred poor sick and wounded boys have just arrived from Fort Fisher. Many letters of invitation will soon reach their homes, and loved ones will come with anxious hearts to meet their dear ones wounded and sick, having left home and friends to go forth to do battle. One lady came this week and found her husband had died. She expressed much gratitude to the Sanitary for providing such a home where she could come and find sympathizing friends. Hoping I shall have more of interest for my next.

BACK PAY—BOUNTIES AND PENSIONS.

We call attention to the notice of the "Relief Department," which is found among the advertisements in each number of the BULLETIN. Many soldier's widows, and all friends of the soldier will be interested to know what this advertisement announces. In explanation of this subject, we present the following article from the Washington *Chronicle:*

There are various departments of charitable labor in the Sanitary Commission, growing out of the necessitous cases which are daily presented for its care and assistance, among which, probably, there is no branch that involves more judicious labor and persistent effort than that known as the back-pay department. Many are the cases which millitate against a soldier, and frequently prevent him for months, and in many cases for years, from obtaining his hard-earned pay. Among which may be enumerated the loss of his descriptive list without which he cannot obtain his pay. There were at one time in a certain hospital in Philadelphia, not less than 1,500 men in this condition. They had been wounded and were helpless, and, while in that condition, with their other effects had been taken from them their descriptive lists. While endeavoring to get certificates of loss, many of them were removed to other hospitals, where, when pay-day came around, they would be found among those not mustered for pay. Thus have some poor fellows been unable to muster for pay for nearly two years.

The duty of the officer in charge of this bureau of the Sanitary Commission is, to visit the hospitals and take the statements in full of all such cases; fill out blanks provided for the same; have the soldier's signature thereto attached, together with the certificate of the surgeon of the hospital where the soldier is, and the date when last paid, with the name of the paymaster by whom the payment was made; foward these documents, together with all the evidence which relates to the case, to the Second Auditor, thence to the Paymaster General, and thence back to the surgeon of the hospital where the soldier is, after all which he is mustered in and paid. This work was commenced in the special relief department, presided over by J. B. Abbott, Esq., a year ago last October, and was then confined to Washington; but in the spring of this year it was extended to Alexandria and Baltimore; in June still further to Philadelphia, and it is designed to have agencies of this kind in every city of ten thousand inhabitants. As an evidence of the labor done in this branch of special relief, it may be stated that over seven thousand cases have been disposed of since the creation of the bureau; eighty letters having been recently written in three days in connection with this business. This, it should be remembered, is the work of one desk in the office of the United States Sanitary Commission.

A DESERVED TESTIMONIAL.

THE LOYAL TEXAS WOMEN AND THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

The following beautiful letter needs no introduction:

NEW ORLEANS, LA., Jan. 1, 1865.

GEO. A. BLAKE, M. D.,
General Agent Sanitary Commission

SIR:—The loyal women of Texas who, by the exigencies of war, have been compelled to abandon their homes and property to take refuge in this (to them) strange city, though under the flag established by their fathers, cannot permit this day to pass with-

out tendering to you their heartfelt gratitude for the generous assistance rendered by the Sanitary Commission, at your instance, to them and their children. Allow us to assure you that such evidence of care and sympathy for us in our destitute condition touches the heart and rekindles our love and affection for the "Glorious Old Union," to sustain which the fathers, brothers and sons of numbers of us are now battling.

Accept for yourself, kind sir, and those in whom you feel the deepest interest the well wishes and prayers of

Yours, gratefully,

Eveline Savoi,	R. Watermann,
Cordelia Savoi,	M. Rennand,
Julien Hicks,	Louise Gemballa,
Eliza G. Hicks,	C. Blombeck,
E. Dekourison,	Corteina Moren,
Jane Rounds,	C. Gonzales,
Louisa James,	Mary Mandes,
Ann Lee,	H. Winters,
Mary Flinn,	Lina Fink,
Eliza J. Sterling,	Ann McCormac,
Nancy Sterry,	C. Petchke,
Jennie Duane,	Dina Gross,
Harriet Sterling,	A. Weinreich,
Rebecca Jambois,	Franziska Jegge,
Lizzie Duke,	Mary Pfefferle,
Martha Duke,	Mrs. Murray,
Lizzie Waterman,	Mrs. Steinburg,
Kate Holcehisen,	Mary Burns,
Jane Leonard,	A. Dreane.

WOMAN'S CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF RELIEF.

ORGANIZATION.—NO. VI.

With the present number of the Bulletin, there will be sent to each of our contributing societies, a copy of the "Soldier's Friend," a little book, published by the Sanitary Commission. It contains valuable, practical, condensed information about the Commission; also an excellent selection of familiar hymns and patriotic songs. You may have already seen a notice of this little manual in Bulletin, No. 30. Although prepared expressly for distribution among our soldiers and sailors, it contains so much valuable information for all, that we send you specimen copies, hoping that the book may thus be more widely circulated. Few will read it through without wishing to put a copy into the hands of every friend in the army and navy. We will furnish our contributing Aid Societies with as many copies without charge, as they think they may be able to dispose of. It is expected that they will be sold for fifteen cents a copy by the societies; the proceeds to be used in furnishing supplies for soldiers through the Sanitary Commission. Write to us for as many copies of the "Soldier's Friend" as you want. An account of the number sold will be required.

This week we propose saying something about organization,—about the organization of this Branch. It will be a dull chapter to many of you; but, if carefully studied, it will make the wheels of business run more smoothly in our future intercourse, and is therefore worth some attention. Perhaps too, our faith in your sympathy is strong enough to make us hope that you you may be as glad to know something about our daily work in these rooms, as we always are to hear about yours.

Among the many lessons which our work in this war has taught us, the value of organization and system has been one of the most prominent. Our eyes have been opened to its necessity as the work has gone on; and we firmly believe that the education of the women of this country, in the efficacy of systematic, concentrated effort, and in a willingness to do things according to rule and order, will not be among the least of the valuable experiences remaining to us at the close of the war. It has long been a settled fact that the spasmodic efforts of communities, made only after great battles, do not compare to the amount accomplished by a well-organized, steady-going Aid Society, either in the quantity, the quality, or the value of the supplies.

Nearly four years ago we began life as an association, in a little room in the second story of this building. The room contained two tables, one desk, half a dozen chairs, and a map on the wall. We had one man, who was, by turns, clerk, carpenter, porter and errand-boy. For many days we sent out circulars, wrote letters, looked out of the windows at passing regiments, talked about our work, at times hopefully, at times despairingly. At last, after what seemed a very long time, our first box came—from Orange, New Jersey. It was a great excitement. It was carefully carried up stairs, it was carefully opened, as carefully unpacked and examined. No box before, or since, ever underwent a closer scrutiny. We told everybody about that wonderful box, and were jubilant.

It would be too long a story to take you through the successive stages of our varied

experiences, from May, 1861 to January, 1865. We will only say that, before that first summer was half over, we were obliged to move down stairs, because the boxes wouldn't move up, and our little office, ever to be associated with the cherished memory of that first box, was passed over to the ladies of our Registration Committee, at that time engaged in training and sending off one hundred nurses for the Washington and Alexandria Hospitals.

That one little room has gradually expanded into an office, 97 feet long, running through the building from one street to the other; a large store-room next door to it; three lofts for storage across the street, and a cellar. The man-of-all work has multiplied himself into two clerks, three porters and an errand-boy. That one box stands on our books at the head of a list of over 17,000 boxes, and the one hundred letters, which seemed so many in those early days, are lost among the thousands that have succeeded them. And so we gradually found ourselves launched in an enormous business, of a character entirely without precedent; and of such a nature that but few of the ordinary, long-established business rules could be of any service to us. We had to feel our way very carefully. Without a certain amount of organization and system, we would have been completely overwhelmed, and lost in irresistible confusion. As it was, we were all very ignorant that first summer, and made blunders enough. But as the work gradually increased, and changed, we kept pace with it; learning from experience and daily requirement, until we have finally adopted our present plan of organization. This meets the demands made by the work upon us now, though how long it will do so, the future can alone determine.

The direct object of our association at present, is the collection and distribution of hospital supplies. To obtain these supplies, each branch is allowed to adopt its own policy and plan of work, but in their distribution the branches are all subject to the order, and are under the control of the Sanitary Commission. The policy of this branch has always been to give the people the fullest information about the work and the wants of the Commission; its plan is to help them in their work, so far as is possible, through organization, by practical suggestions, active sympathy and other means.

In this article we propose giving you an account of the *home* organization of our branch; the next number will contain an account of its *field* organization.

The Woman's Central Association is at present divided into four committees.

I. *Committee on Correspondence and diffusion of information, printed or otherwise.*—This long name is expressive of the entire work of the committee. It aims at obtaining supplies through the diffusion of information. The work is subdivided into five departments, viz.: Organization; Correspondence; Document; Lecturing; the Press. The first includes the organization of our field, the appointment of Associate Managers, making out working plans, &c., &c. The second comprises the Associate Manager correspondence, and all correspondence not appertaining to the other committees, or to the officers of the Association. Through the Document department, the BULLETIN and other publications of the Commission are distributed. The Lecturing department includes making out the tours, and sending into the field, those canvassing agents assigned to the branch by the Commission. These gentlemen are not engaged by us, but are appointed directly from the Commission. The Press department comprises publication, writing for newspapers, the BULLETIN, &c. The committee is much aided in its work by a corps of volunteer aids, young ladies, of this city, who do a great deal of clerk-work, such as directing wrappers, copying, &c.

II. *Purchasing Committee.*—It is the duty of this committee to make purchases of material at wholesale quantities and prices, and to furnish it, at the same price, but in small quantities, to the Aid Societies. It has lately been furnishing material to 250 societies, at the rate of $7,000 a month, according to the proposition contained in our Third Annual Report. Mrs. J. A. Swett is the chairman of the committee.

III. *Committee on Supplies.*—This committee receives, acknowledges, unpacks, stamps, sorts, repacks and distributes all the supplies sent through the Association. The distributions are made by order of the Commission, or upon requisitions of surgeons of the local hospitals, approved by the Commission. We have also one Hospital Visitor, a lady, who visits the hospitals in and near the city, and draws upon us for supplies for them. Every week an account of the stock in hand is sent to the Central office of the Commission. The supply com-

mittee is very much aided in its work by a large corps of volunteers aids. These ladies do all the unpacking, stamping and repacking of all but the cellar supplies. The handling of the boxes requires the hired labor of three porters. Miss Ellen Collins is the chairman of the supply committee.

IV. *Committee on Special Relief.*—This committee attends to the wants of individual soldiers, who apply at the rooms for aid. It relieves only such cases as are not already covered by existing associations in the city. Many of the applications are referred to the New England Rooms, or Howard Street Home, both of these institutions being entitled to call upon us for supplies. Those wanting aid in the collection of bounty, back-pay, pension, or in need of employment, are referred to the Protective War Claim, No. 35 Chambers Street, now an agency of the Commission. Other cases of destitution, not coming under any known form of relief established in the city, are investigated by the committee, and relieved. Mrs. W. P. Griffin is the chairman on stores.

It would greatly facilitate our work if our correspondents would be kind enough to address communications upon any of the above mentioned subjects, to the committee having them in charge.

The officers of the association are a President, Secretary and Treasurer, who perform the usual duties of their offices. A Board meeting is held on the first Wednesday of every month, at which the Treasurer and Chairmen of the several committees, present written reports, and other business of the Association is transacted. The Annual meeting is held on the first Wednesday in May.

And so we work along, pleasantly, smoothly and easily. We would like to hear that each one of your societies is working as smoothly and easily. Were your organization complete it would be so, and there is no reason why it should not be complete. But this whole subject of field organization, which more nearly affects you, must be left for the next number.

LOUISA LEE SCHUYLER.
Chairman Committee on Correspondence, &c.
NEW YORK, *February* 4, 1865.

REPORT OF THE SOUTH NORWALK LADIES' PATRIOTIC SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR 1864.

At the close of the fourth year of the South Norwalk Ladies' Patriotic Society, we submit the following report of the operations of the Society, and of the work accomplished during the year—

No. of articles made and appropriated through the Sanitary Commission,	686
No. of articles given to soldiers at home,	24
Total,	710

The Society has also donated through the Commission, 5 gallons of blackberry wine, (the gift of Mr. Ira Seymour,) ½ bushel of dried apples, 5 lbs. of dried currants, 1 lb. of arrow root, 2 jars of blackberry jam, 1 bottle of vinegar, 4 books, and several packages of newspapers, lint and linen. The children of South Norwalk have contributed $20 to our fund, and have also pieced two quilts for hospital use.

The Treasurer's report from Jan 20th, 1864, to Jan. 25th, 1865, is as follows:

Cash receipts from donations, weekly collections, and entertainments,	$675 90

EXPENDITURES.

Donation to the Chr. Commission,	257 36
Paid to Sanitary Commission for flannel,	215 53
Current expenses of Society, which include donations to various special objects,	160 41
Cash on hand,	42 60
	675 90
Add to this the sum of allowed on the goods purchased of the Sanitary Commission and the total amount is	215 53
	$891 43

Our thanks are due to the Editors of the Gazette, for their kindness in publishing gratuitously, notices of concerts and entertainments given for the benefit of the Society. We are also especially indebted to those patriotic gentlemen of South Norwalk, who have aided us pecuniarily in the prosecution of our work.

The meetings of the Society are held weekly as heretofore, at the house of some member of the Society, and are sustained with undiminished interest. It is gratifying to be able to state that while the demand for practical sympathy on behalf of our suffering and imprisoned soldiers, is still great and pressing, there has never been a more earnest desire on the part of our patriotic citizens to meet that demand than at present. The Society has never

been more prosperous than during the past year; more work has been accomplished than in any previous year; the cash receipts show a considerable increase over former years; and we trust a spirit of patriotism is now aroused which will lead to renewed energy and effort in this "great good work," until the peace so long desired shall bless our land, and our efforts in behalf of the soldier shall be no longer needed.

By order of the President,

E. G. PLATT, *Sec. and Treas.*

Correspondence.

DR. BELLOWS AND * * * * *, SURGEONS AND THE PEOPLE'S STORES.

The name of the author of the letter to Dr. Bellows is prudently withheld from the public, but as it bears upon a subject of importance to the people, it is given, with the reply of Dr. B. in full.

REV. DR. BELLOWS,
President the United States Sanitary Commission.

DEAR SIR:—I write you as a friend of the United States Sanitary Commission; I have just been looking over the December 15th SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN, and have noticed the complaints there spoken of. I have been in the army as a Christian laborer, and have seen the working of the Commission, and am sorry to say there is ground for such complaint as "Clint" makes in his published letter, though he makes extravagant statements. Officers and surgeons do *eat* up and drink up and wear the good things of the Commission.

The soldiers know it, though they may not be able to give instances and facts. I saw considerable of it, know of one instance where the surgeon said his whole living did not cost him a cent, got it from the Sanitary Commission. I do not know but this is unavoidable, it surely is under the system of requisitions from officers and surgeons, it may be any way. Bad men fill these places, bad men get detailed as nurses to sick, and will put the delicacies and stimulants down their own neck, though the poor sick soldier die.

If some system could be adopted by which the stores of the Commission could be delivered directly by the agent to the soldier needing them, it would make the soldier feel that the Commission was not simply for the officers, as they now say

The Sanitary has done an untold amount of good, but I think the soldiers feel that some how the best part of the stores do not quite reach them.

I write to you as head of this noble institution, hoping some way may be devised to make the working of the Commission more perfect in this particular.

We have just closed a fair in our city from which the Commission will realize two or three thousand dollars.

DR. BELLOWS' REPLY.

823 BROADWAY, N. Y., *Jan.* 18, 1865.

DEAR SIR:—I thank you sincerely for your friendly letter. Candid and intelligent criticism of the work we are engaged in is always acceptable. I can assure you that whatever weakness or defects in our system there may be, we have always been and continue to be watchful to the utmost to prevent all avoidable waste or perversion. On the scale on which we work it is simply impossible to undertake as a rule, personal distribution of our stores. We *must* trust some class of persons, and the class we have to trust is that of surgeons, hospital stewards and ward masters. If *they* are scoundrels and liars, we cannot be responsible for their stealing and gluttony, but we do not believe this is at all true of surgeons or ward masters, or officers as a class, the same percentage of knaves and gluttons exist among them as in civil life, and the Sanitary Commission suffers a certain incurable loss through their crimes.

Our full conviction after collecting testimony in all quarters, is that certainly *nine-tenths* of all we send to the army goes to the comfort of the private soldiers, indeed we *know* this. It is only by generalizing from some unfortunate exceptional experience that these sweeping conclusions to the contrary are arrived at—the single facts are true often when the general deductions are very false.

You had had, you say, personal experience of the wicked misappropriation of our stores. Now, is it not your duty to inform us specifically of the name of the surgeon who infamously boasted that he lived wholly on Sanitary Commission stores, or any other specific cases of abuse of our property? It is only by following up such alleged cases that we are able to detect any inefficiency or carelessness in our own agents. Convinced of your genuine interest, you will greatly add to the favor already rendered, by troubling yourself to give us particular in-

stances of abuse or waste, with names and places. *We never omit examining into every specified case of abuse.* I know the pain and annoyance of making personal charges, but if honest men refuse to lend in this aid, if all decline as you may feel inclined to do, to appear as accusers, what relief have we from our dilemma? How can we correct abuses which we cannot get any exact evidence of the existence of? How can we profit by general criticism without specifications of persons, time and place?

We have in the army of General Grant, thirty agents engaged in the personal delivery of our supplies, after the fashion you suggest, but we are really doubtful of its expediency, and it would be impossible to carry it out on a general scale in all the columns of the army. The expense would be greater than the cost of the goods, lost by the want of the itermediary agents.

With the fullest appreciation of your kindness, I remain yours truly,

HENRY W. BELLOWS,
President.

REPORT OF R. M. LEWIS, ESQ., STPERINTENDENT OF PHILADELPHIA BRANCH OF U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION.

We regret that our space will not admit of the insertion of this valuable report in full.

The following extracts, however, are full of interest, not only to those immediately concerned in the Philadelphia Branch, but all who are interested in the work will be profited by their perusal.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Executive Committee of the Women's Pennsylvania Branch, having charge of the supply department, has, during the past year, retained nearly its original organization. The resignation of their corresponding secretary having rendered some action necessary to fill so important a vacancy, it was deemed expedient to place the whole correspondence in the hands of a competent Committee, among whom the work is systematically divided. Associate managers have been appointed in nearly every county in this department, which includes forty-nine counties of Pennsylvania, the southern part of New Jersey, and the State of Delaware. Fifty-four associate managers in all. It is believed that the present plan of thoroughly cultivating the field by corresponding with the people, as well as sending canvassing agents among them, will yield a rich harvest of comfort for the sick and wounded soldiers of the Union. The Committee report that while the long continuance of the war has, of course, caused the faith and zeal of some to wax cold, yet on the whole there has been a steady growth of energetic liberality, as is evinced by the supplies contributed. This department numbers three hundred and fifty auxiliary societies, besides a considerable number of individual contributors, who send boxes with almost the frequency observed by active societies. During the year, twenty-one hundred and ninety-nine boxes and packages, valued at about one hundred and ten thousand dollars, have been received at the rooms. Eight hundred and seventy-five boxes have been dispatched to various points where they were needed, besides an enormous aggregate of issues for the relief of individual soldiers applying at the rooms of the Commission. Large supplies have also been sent to the various hospitals in this military department.

At the time the Great Central Fair was held, it was feared that the extraordinary efforts then being made by our societies would so exhaust their resources that but little could be expected from them for a long time. The result has not justified this apprehension; for while there was but a temporary falling off of the receipts, the wide-spread interest excited by the Fair in the work of the Sanitary Commission, has stimulated the efforts of many who before had done little or nothing for its support.

The list of issues, which will be found subjoined, includes those of the Women's Pennsylvania Branch for the year 1864.

RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

During the year just passed, relief of various kinds has been afforded to more than six hundred families of soldiers by the Committee.

Steady employment is given weekly to two hundred and eighty women. The remuneration for this work (though not in any case sufficient for the support of a family) is ample, and more than twice as much as is paid for the same amount of work by the Government.

The Committee have had made for the Sanitary Commission between eight and nine thousand garments; they have, besides, taken work from contractors, for which they receive one-half the amount paid to their

workmen. Sixteen thousand and ninety-one garments have been made in this way, and the work is largely sought by many a soldier's wife and widow. These women are visited and cared for in divers ways by the ladies who have them in charge.

The funds to carry on the work of the Committee are contributed by generous friends. These sums are acknowledged, from time to time, in the printed reports of the Committee. During the year 1864, eleven thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars have been received from various sources.

A large part of this amount is in monthly subscriptions, conveyed to the Committee through Mr. A. D. Jessup.

The only regret the Committee ever feel is, that they cannot relieve all the want which comes to their notice.

Last year, much comfort was given by the donation of half a ton of coal to each family. This year the amount of coal contributed for this purpose is ten tons, which the Committee have received through Mr. J. J. Borie, and which will be distributed to the most destitute.

HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

During the year just closed, the Hospital Directory has continued its work and greatly extended its sphere of usefulness. It is, indeed, difficult to estimate the amount of anxiety and distress relieved through its instrumentality. Most of those who apply for information of their friends and relatives in the Army and Navy seem to be entirely ignorant how to commence the search. Many, too, are constantly calling for advice, who, having exhausted every other source, apply to the Sanitary Commission. In giving an answer to an inquiry as to the whereabouts of a soldier, not only the inquirer's mind is relieved, but frequently a large circle of friends also. Numerous letters have been received at our office during the year expressing the utmost satisfaction at the answers we have been enabled to furnish. In some cases we have succeeded in ascertaining that men were alive, and in rebel hands, whose families had given them up for lost months before.*

When it is considered that this work is done at a cost of only one dollar and fifty-five cents for each successful answer, it will be readily admitted that nothing which the Commission has undertaken has been more satisfactory in its results. It will be observed that in seventy-seven out of every hundred inquiries we have been enabled to obtain information. As very many never apply at our rooms until they have failed in every effort of their own, it is thought that the proportion of answers given is fully as large as could be expected.

In addition to the regular inquiries of the Directory, we are constantly called upon for advice and assistance of a miscellaneous character, such as the best and cheapest mode of procuring the bodies of deceased soldiers from the army, the means of communicating with those in hospitals at distant points, the method of obtaining passes, the means to be used in securing the effects of men who die in the service, and of writing letters to prisoners, &c. On all these points we keep ourselves thoroughly advised, so as to be able to make the proper answers. It is estimated that not less than fifty weekly, or twenty-six hundred persons during the year, have sought and received information of this nature.

At the present time we have on our books 75,830 names, 47,987 of which have been added during the year.

PROTECTIVE WAR CLAIM AND PENSION AGENCY.

Five classes of claims are now prosecuted by this Agency, viz.: claims for pensions on behalf of disabled soldiers and the relatives of deceased soldiers; for bounty and back-pay due the estates of deceased soldiers; for pay of prisoners-of-war; for pay of soldiers discharged with defective final papers; and for prize money of seamen. Although the prosecution of two classes at least of these claims was not contemplated when the Agency was established, they came so entirely within the relief designed to be afforded that they could not be rejected without manifest inconsistency.

The table accompanying this report will show that since the Agency was organized, in May, 1863, 4,355 claims have been received for collection. Of these, there have been settled 731 claims for pension, 594 claims for bounty and back-pay, amounting in value to $72,067 50; 182 claims for pay

* A Captain in our Army had been missing for nearly a year, and his family had abandoned all hopes of his being alive. His mother, after searching in vain in every other quarter, appealed to the Sanitary Commission. The officer in charge of the Directory applied for information to a released prisoner just returned from "the Libby," and then at our rooms. That gentleman at once declared that the long-lost son had been confined with him for months in the Libby, and was removed to Andersonville on the day of his exchange.

applied for by the families of prisoners-of-war amounting to $21,363 64; and 52 claims for prize money, amounting to $1,992 26. The total amount thus collected in cash, and paid to claimants, or held subject to their order, is $95,423 40. To this must be added the sums paid to this date upon the certificates of pension, which, at the lowest estimate, cannot be less than $41,712 00, showing a total sum realized for applicants of at least $137,135 40, without the expense of one dollar to the claimants.

Objection has been taken to the work of this branch of the Commission that it is not strictly charitable, because it makes no distinction in the circumstances of claimants. Such a discrimination, however, even if it were practicable, could not fail to result in embarrassment. A careful observation of the cases presented during the year shows the practical uselessness of the policy by disclosing the fact that of the whole number of claimants the circumstances of at least three-fourths are but a step removed from actual poverty.

The delay in the settlement of claims, so familiar to all who have frequent dealings with Government, needs a word of explanation. The pay-rolls upon which the claims of deceased soldiers are settled by the Second Auditor of the Treasury Department are frequently not accessible to that officer until several months have elapsed after the death of the soldier. These rolls, as well as the proof submitted by the legal representatives of the deceased, must be carefully examined and submitted for approval to the Second Comptroller before any claim can be settled. The result is that an interval often exceeding a year intervenes between the filing and the final adjustment of a claim for arrears of pay. In applications for pension the delay, although not usually so great, is still very considerable. Owing to the numerous attempts at fraud in the presentation of unworthy or fictitious claims, the rules of proof insisted upon by the Department have been gradually rendered more stringent. The disability or death of the soldier is required in every case to be distinctly shown as having occurred in the line of military duty, and as incident to the service. In at least three-fourths of the whole number of cases the Company records fail to throw sufficient light upon these points, and the party, or his attorney, is called upon to furnish the requisite proof. Where the claimant is the widow of a soldier, her marriage must be shown, if possible, by a sworn copy of the church, or other public record of the marriage, and no other proof will be admitted unless the absence of such record is clearly established. Where the claimants are minors, a guardian must be appointed by Court, and the exact ages of the children and the marriage of their parents must be shown, if possible, by record evidence. Where the claimant is a mother, she must establish the fact of her dependence for support upon her deceased son by proof of the sums actually contributed by him, and for what, in general, they were appropriated. The witnesses called to testify in any claim must be disinterested, and, if possible, not near relatives of the claimant. This rule, of course, excludes at once a large number of persons from testifying, with whom the knowledge of these facts peculiarly lies, and increases in the same proportion the difficulty of establishing the claim.

It would be easy perhaps to add a feature of interest to this report by citing examples of the operation of this branch of the Commission in individual cases. These comprise frequently the most afflicting exhibitions of utter poverty and hopelessness. In repeated instances a home has been kept to the families of soldiers by the trifling loans which have been advanced upon claims in course of settlement. During the present month a certificate of pension in favor of a soldier discharged for consumption contracted in the service was received upon the day of his death. His wife called to say that she had no means with which to defrey the expenses of his burial. Fortunately the arrears upon the pension proved to be considerable, and were promptly paid by the Government pension agent.

But it is believed that the character of the work, as one of benevolence, is sufficiently indicated in the tables accompanying this report. The large and rapid growth, which, with little aid from the public press, the work has attained, shows the estimation in which it is held, and the ease with which it may be still further enlarged. Probably in no branch of the Commission are the benefits resulting from its labors so direct and so encouraging.

SPECIAL RELIEF.

At the date of our last report, the Special Relief Department in Philadelphia had just been reorganized. Sufficient time had not

then elapsed to test its practical working. The results of more than a year's experience is now sufficient to convince us, not only of its immense benefit to our hospitals and men, but also of the economical results of the plan adopted. Colonel Soest, our Special Relief Agent, visits one or other of our hospitals daily, keeping himself thoroughly advised of their requirements. He is prepared at all times to render such assistance as falls within the scope of the Sanitary Commission. When requisitions are made upon us, Colonel Soest, by personal inspection, ascertains whether the articles demanded are really needed or not. Thus a constant check is maintained to secure the economical distribution of the supplies entrusted to our care.

Perhaps the most important portion of our Special Relief work is the looking after the comfort of individual soldiers, those in the service as well as those discharged. Any one familiar with the subject knows how many and various are the wants of the soldier which the Government cannot reasonably be expected to care for. There are at our rooms daily: men without descriptive lists, men with their clothing accounts overdrawn, those discharged, or waiting to be discharged who have claims unsettled, those needing transportation, and those suffering from countless other causes. The case of each man is thoroughly investigated, whenever necessary he is visited, and such aid afforded as the circumstances require.

The applications have recently become so numerous that it has been found necessary to appoint an assistant to Colonel Soest. By this arrangement the latter is enabled to pass most of his time invisiting our hospitals.

During the year, 5,356 cases have received attention, as follows:

Number of issues of supplies made to general and volunteer hospitals and transports	464
Number of issues of supplies made to individual soldiers in the service	2,091
Number of issues of supplies made to discharged soldiers	1,210
Visits paid to hospitals	317
Visits paid to individuals	303
Referred to local relief associations	330
Transportation given or procured	375
Temporary subsistence given	139
Supplied with trusses, &c.	6
Miscellaneos	121
	5,356

Value of supplies issued to general hospitals	$24,244 40
Value of supplies issued to volunteer hospitals, refreshment saloons, "home," &c., including Harrisburg Lodge	7,623 37
Value of supplies issued to transports, &c.	1,120 50
Value of supplies issued to individual soldiers	20,777 35
	$53,765 62

It will be observed, on reference to the above statament, that supplies, amounting in value to $7623 37, have been issued to the various volunteer organizations for the relief of soldiers in this department. In addition to this, the Executive Committee has appropriated $2,000 to the Citizens' Volunteer Hospital, $2,000 to the Cooper Shop Volunteer Refreshment Saloon, $2,000 to the Union Volunteer Refreshment Saloon, and $500 to the Soldiers' Home.

FROM FORT FISHER.

BY F. W. FOSTER.

January 20, 1865.

I have the honor to report that acting under orders from head quarters, I proceeded to Fort Fisher, with Sanitary supplies aboard the Steamer *Demolay* to Fortress Monroe, from that point aboard the Steamer *Atlantic*, to Fort Fisher.

A portion of my goods were landed in safety through the surf on the 13th, immediately following the troops, and a depot was established near General Terry's headquarters, near the beach.

The troops were all obliged to wade through the surf from the boats, and some were completely immersed in reaching the shore, so that I found it necessary to distribute dry shirts and drawers in some cases, which were gratefully received, and I have reason to believe, prevented much suffering, and probably sickness among the soldiers of General Terry's command.

For three days and nights the troops were exposed on the beach with little or no shelter, and with a limited amount of commissary stores. By great exertion I succeeded in getting a portion of my stores landed on the second day, and upon the request of different surgeons, was able to relieve many necessities, cases where diet, clothing, stimulus, &c., were called for.

The great demand for boats in landing the troops embarrassed me somewhat, but I finally succeeded in getting all my goods ashore before the assault on Fort Fisher began.

I chose a situation to co-operate with the surgeons and the hospital department, in relieving the wants of the wounded as they were brought in, and in distributing comfort to the sick.

I have found it necessary to practice the same careful scrutiny with issue of stimulus, food and clothing, which has been found so

useful in other departments, in nearly every case requiring the surgeon's written approval, and delivering the article to the needy person himself, who, unless sick or disabled was expected to present himself at the agency for the articles required, that is when the armies are settled in camp.

All wholesale demands from surgeons, chaplains and others, for regiments represented to be in need, I have carefully declined to fill, but have uniformly requested that the needy party be sent directly to me, with a note from the surgeon stating the wants, I am satisfied by this course that the goods distributed have been to the most pressing cases both among officers and men.

The wounded all received attention from some of the Sanitary Commission Agents, each one having his duty to perform.

On the 15th, at about four o'clock, as the wounded were coming in, we made hot milk punch and beef tea; soft crackers were given for them to eat. At this time no commissary stores were landed, so that all the wounded had at first was what we gave them.

A chest of tea was sent to the cook-ground, or place chosen for cooking. Oftentimes surgeons would call on us for crackers for the wounded, as they were without any. Rags, bandages, sponges, liquors, blankets, &c., &c., were in great demand. *We made over two hundred gallons of milk punch.*

The timely aid of the Commission seems to be appreciated by all that know the good derived therefrom.

My course has been approved by General Terry and Dr. Burnes, Medical Director of the Department, Dr. Buzzell, Medical Inspector, and other prudent and conscientious officers of different grades. I have received prompt assistance from General Terry, in receiving from him six colored men whom I used in getting and heating water for tea and milk punches, in making farina, &c.

Teams were always furnished me for transporting my stores.

A DREAM.

A letter of one of our agents, written home while on distant duty in the enemy's country, has fallen into our hands, and though it was intended for no eye but one, we have obtained permission to insert this extract in the BULLETIN. The letter reads:

I dreamed the other night of crossing over from a fort to the bank beyond the moat, on a fallen tree. The top of the tree began to settle as I got almost to the bank, and I began to sink down into the deep muddy ditch, and was just wavering between sinking into the moat and springing to the bank, when, without my looking up, I felt a little hand in mine giving the gentlest little pull, but steady and real, which lifted me right up to my feet; and on looking, there was our little, darling boy. It was so real that it woke me, and these are the thoughts it left with me.

"A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM."

A little child is leading me,
I feel his hand in mine;
I'm lead as one that cannot see—
His is a right divine.

He has a gentle, timid voice;
A form that's very frail;
A foot that hardly leaves a print;
A tender face, and pale.

And yet he has a certain power
To lead me where he will;
I hasten with his hast'ning steps,
And when he rests, I'm still.

He leads me on to holy thought,
To earnest prayer and love,
To where the heart by God is taught,
To where descends the Dove.

He leads me where the waters flow
That wash out stains of sin;
He leads my heart to seek to know
How Christ may enter in.

He leads me to my own sweet home,
And shows me there at rest,
My children and my wife, so dear,
And all I love the best.

He leads me on where children play
On banks of living green,
Where sunshine lingers all day long,
And angels' wings are seen.

He leads me thence to seek the Source
Of spirit, life and power;
To search the problem, never solved—
The soul's own natal hour!

To ask, How out of God we came?
How unto God we go?
How, 'tis in Him we live and move—
The Holy Spirit's flow.

'Tis thus a child is leading me,
His little hand in mine;
'Tis thus I'm led, that could not see;
'Tis thus his power's divine!

DR. HOWARD'S AMBULANCE.

Dr. Howard, late surgeon of the United States Army, has, after much thought and labor, constructed plans of an improved

ambulance, of which we gave a series of wood cuts in the last number of the BULLETIN, and not having the Doctor's text at hand, we inadvertantly attributed a measure of the credit of this very creditable work to the members of the Sanitary Commission, whom we know to have taken a deep interest in Dr. Howard's plan, but we take pleasure now in correcting the error by giving the full credit of the work to Dr. Howard, and calling attention to his own description of the improved ambulance, commencing on page 994 of our present issue.

ONE WEEK'S WORK AS HOSPITAL VISITOR.

BY J. B. HOLT.

Monday morning rode my horse to Alexandria, and spent the day at Louviture Hospital, visited each man confined to his bed, offering words of cheer, finding out their wants, and engaging to supply those wants as far as practicable. Took a number of cases for back-pay. The men were being paid off, and I received many a "God bless you" from those whose cases I had taken, and for whom that very efficient branch of the Commission, the Special Relief, had obtained certificates from the Paymaster General, so that some were receiving pay for fourteen months, others six, eight, ten and twelve.

Tuesday visited Falls Church Hospital, where I met the most grateful and happy man I have seen for many a day. His lower limbs have been paralyzed for five months, the only way he could be moved was to be carried about in the arms of the attendants. Last week the Sanitary Commission furnished him with a "Locomotive Chair," in which he can move about wherever he pleases in the lower part of the Hospital, and when spring comes can move out of doors.

Wednesday visited King Street Commissary and Quartermaster's hospitals. Took quite a number of cases for back-pay. Wrote out statements of two soldiers charged with desertion, who are believed by the surgeons to be innocent.

Thursday, visited St. Paul's Church, Grace Church, and Fort Lyon's hospitals, the latter some three miles from Alexandria.

Friday, visited Grosvenor House, Prince Street and Baptist Church hospitals. Have written to friends of soldiers, their officers, &c., on business connected with the Special Relief Department.

Saturday, (to-day) have visited Fort Williams Hospital, and the headquarters of the Brigade, Fort Ward Hospital; called at Fairfax Siminary, on request of Miss Woolsey; visited Abbott Hospital, and Invalid Corps Hospital, Freedmen's Village, forts Woodbury and Strong hospitals, at each of which there has been much improvement in the sanitary condition within a few weeks, and a general improvement of the patients.

I hear from surgeons in charge of hospitals, every day, remarks like the following: "What a grand institution the Sanitary Commission is." "What should we do were it not for the Sanitary?" "We could not get along without the aid of the Sanitary." All of which is encouraging.

LETTER FROM SURGEON MOORE OF SHERMAN'S ARMY.

DEAR SIR:—Your obliging letter, containing an offer of sanitary stores, was received yesterday. The articles of food and underclothing will be of great use to us here.

If one of your agents could be stationed here it would be a more convenient arrangement than having them at Beaufort. But our surgeons will have to go to Hilton Head for medical supplies, and when there, can easily go to Beaufort and bring down sanitary stores. No orders for these articles will be sent except by division or regimental surgeons. I hope soon to see a branch of your establishment at this place. With kind regards to yourself and the benevolent institution you represent, I remain,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. MOORE,
Surg. U. S. A., in charge Sherman's Army.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION IN THE SHENANDOAH.

EXTRACT FROM REPORT OF MR. BATCHELDER.

There have been one hundred thousand soldiers' letters committed to our care, on about one-third of which we have paid the postage.

We have forwarded, in money, for soldiers forty-three thousand and seventy-five dollars, and returned receipts for the same. Fifty packages have been delivered to the express company, through our agency. The remains of about twenty-five soldiers have been sent to their friends.

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2d. To protect soldiers or sailors and their families from imposture and fraud.

3d. To prevent false claims from being made against the Government.

4th. To give gratuitous advice and information to soldiers and sailors or their families needing it.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Was constituted by the Secretary of War in June, 1861, in accordance with the recommendation of the Surgeon-General of the United States Army, and its appointment and plan of organization were approved by the President of the United States. Its present organization is as follows:

H. W. Bellows, D.D., New York.
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F. L. Olmsted, California.
George T. Strong, Esq., New York.
Elisha Harris, M.D., New York.
W. H. Van Buren, M.D., New York.
Wolcott Gibbs, M.D., Cambridge, Mass.
S. G. Howe, M.D., Boston, Mass.
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HOSPITAL DIRECTORY.

The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, the New England States, Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regi-

ment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST.

CENTRAL DEPOTS OF COLLECTION.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 18 West Street, Boston, Mass.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 11 Cooper Union, New York.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, State House, New Haven, Conn.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 1307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

DEPOTS OF DISTRIBUTION.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 244 F Street, Washington, D. C.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Camp Distribution, Va.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 46 Sharp Street, Baltimore, Md.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Harper's Ferry, Va.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Annapolis, Md.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Camp Parole, Md.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Norfolk, Va.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, City Point, Va.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Newberne, N. C.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Beaufort, S. C.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, New Orleans, La

Temporary Depots for distribution are established from time to time as necessities of the service require.

DEPARTMENT OF THE WEST.

CENTRAL DEPOTS OF COLLECTION.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, corner Vine and Sixth Streets, Cincinnati, O.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 95 Bank Street, Cleveland, O.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 66 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 2 Adam's Block, Buffalo, N. Y.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 59 Fourth Street, Pittsburgh, Penna.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, No. 32 Larned Street, Detroit, Mich.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Columbus, O.

U. S. Sanitary Commission, Fifth Street, Louisville, Ky.

The Commission receives no pecuniary aid whatever from the Government, and is wholly dependent on the voluntary contributions of the public for the means of sustaining its operations. Contributions to the Treasury are solicited, and may be transmitted to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer, 68 Wall Street, N. Y.

SPECIAL RELIEF DEPARTMENT.

EAST.

"Special Relief" Office, 76 Kingston Street, Boston, Mass.

"Special Relief" Office, 1307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

"Soldiers' Rest," Buffalo, Exchange street, opposite R. R. Depot.

"Soldiers' Lodge," Harrisburg, Pa.

"The Home," Baltimore, Md.

"Home for Wives, Mothers and Children of Soldiers," Annapolis, Md.

"Special Relief Office," No. 389 H Street, Washington, D. C., where assistance is rendered in procuring Pay, Pensions, Bounty, Prize Money, and arrears of Pay and Bounty, and in various other ways.

"The Home," No. 374 N. Capitol Street, Washington, D. C.

"Home for Wives, Mothers and Children of Soldiers," 374 N. Capitol St., Washington, D. C.

"Lodge No. 4," for discharged soldiers, No. 389 H Street, Washington, D. C.

"Lodge No. 5," near terminus of Washington and Alexandria R. R., Maryland Avenue, Washington, D. C.

"Lodge No. 6," near Steamboat Landing, Sixth Street, Washington, D. C.

"Alexandria Lodge," near terminus of Orange and Alexandria R. R., Alexandria, Va.

"Special Relief Office," New Orleans, La.

"The Home," New Orleans, La.

WEST.

Soldiers' Home, No. 81 Jefferson avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

Soldiers' Home, Third Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, Col. G. W. D. Andrews, Superintendent.

Soldiers' Home, Louisville, Ky., James Malona, Sup't. James Morton, Special Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Home, New Albany, corner of Main and State Streets.

Soldiers' Home, Cairo, Ill., C. N. Shipman, Superintendent and Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Home, Nashville, Tenn., Captain I. Brayton, Sup't. Rev. J. Hoblit, Relief Agent

Soldiers' Home, Columbus, Ohio, Col. Isaac Dalton, Superintendent.

Soldiers' Home, Cleveland, Ohio, Joseph Jerome, Superintendent and Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Lodge, near landing, Memphis, Tenn., C. W. Christy, Superintendent and Relief Agent.

Soldiers' Home, Camp Nelson, Ky., Thomas Butler, Superintendent.

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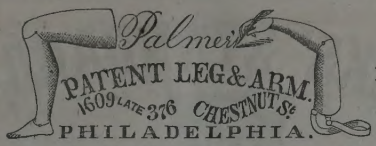

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SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON CITY, D.C., Dec. 12, 1863.

SIR:—The Board of Medical Officers assembled in the City of Philadelphia, for the purpose of examining the different models submitted to them for an Artificial Arm, having reported * * * * * * * * *
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD, WHEN A SOLDIER MAY DESIRE TO PURCHASE "THE MORE ELEGANT AND EXPENSIVE ARM OF PALMER," FIFTY DOLLARS WILL BE ALLOWED TOWARDS PAYMENT FOR THT SAME.
By order of the Acting Surgeon-General.
C. H. CRANE, Surgeon U.S.A.

SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON CITY, D.C., Sept. 20, 1864.

SIR:—In answer to your letter of the 1st inst., I am directed to inform you, that the Report and recommendation of the Medical Board recently assembled in New York, to examine samples and models of Artificial Limbs, is not designed to supersede the recommendation of the former Board, SO FAR AS REGARDS THE LIMBS MANUFACTURED BY YOU.
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